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DOMINION.

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Canadian conditions, he investigated those of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Michigan and Ohio, and less extensively, those of a couple of other States. He also put in one year of forestry study in Europe. Lately, as already announced in these columns, he was appointed Provincial Forester for Ontario, and has been giving lectures on the subject to the O. A. C. students. This season, his work is mainly directed, as his letter indicates, to the encouragement of farm forestry, but, hereafter, it will deal with the preservation of the public timber reserves, and, with the qualifications which he possesses, naturally and acquired, he should do the country good service.

President Roosevelt ranks easily among the most thoroughgoing and practical public men of the present day in the United States, and, in a recent message, he declared: "THE PRESERVATION OF OUR FORESTS IS AN IMPERATIVE BUSINESS NECESSITY. The fundamental idea of forestry is the perpetuation of forests by use. The forest and water problems are, perhaps, THE MOST VITAL INTERNAL QUESTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES." The prospects are that, in the near future, practical forestry will receive a great deal of attention in Canada, both in relation to the public domain and on farm and other private properties, nor has the movement begun in earnest a day too soon.

Xmas Number.

Remember the Xmas Number of the Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine will be issued on Dec. 15th. Send us your orders at once for extra copies, and we will mail them direct to your friends for you. Price, 25 cents. Address

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Do You Give Christmas Gifts? OF COURSE YOU DO.

Then what about this?
Have you a friend who likes reading?
Will he appreciate something that will help him with his farming?
Will he be glad of weekly entertainment for the cold winter evenings?
Will he appreciate a good thing when he sees it?
Will he be interested in knowing just how the brainiest farmers farm?
Has he a family who share his interests and pleasures?

Then why not send him the Farmer's Advocate for 1905 for a Christmas Box? It will be a gift that he and his whole family will be sure to enjoy. Think about this, and send in your friend's name as soon as possible. You will be pleased, as well as your friend, with your choice of a Christmas gift.

HORSES.

The demand for good improved Clydesdale and Shire stallions is pretty keen. Is each neighborhood well supplied?

It is a good plan to lay away, in a dry place, any extra set of harness that will not be required in winter.

Do not keep the horses that have been accustomed to outdoor life all summer shut up in the stable all day long. A healthy horse should have from six to eight hours each day in an open yard.

About once a month, go over the horses' feet and trim off any long horn, and drain the hoof to grow true.

It is economy to bring the horses through the winter on a little grain, roots, and straw, but don't economize with the straw. Run it through the cutting-box, and mix a little clover hay with it, if you have it; then mix the grain in the chaffed straw and hay, and the horse will make the best possible use of his food.

Young horses that have been running to pasture all summer come in with long, streaming tails. Go at them some day and shorten the tails to reach the hocks, then thin them out with a strong curry comb and stiff brush. They will look better, feel better, keep cleaner, and be more healthy.

If the boy wants a horse, make an effort to let him have one. It makes him proud of his work, and there is plenty of room in the world for a lot of good healthy pride and self-respect.

Comfortable stables are a great boon to horses, but don't sacrifice pure air and lack of exercise to mere warmth in stables. We once knew a man who took such "good care" of his brood mares that he could not raise a colt. They were simply pampered to uselessness.

Horses Have Memories.

Before "Hans" made his debut, a contemporary largely concerned with the breeding and training of horses opened its columns for some months to the discussion of their mental powers, and though various estimates were given by different correspondents, they all agree that a horse is wonderfully observant, and that it has an extraordinary memory. "With a memory like a horse's" is a common Scotch saying. Instinctive power of observation and natural memory are the most valuable raw material which a trainer could desire if he wished to teach an animal "performances." But it is scarcely creditable that these would enable a horse to understand an idea such as "Tuesday," "Wednesday" or "Thursday," or a fraction of a "remainder" in a division sum. On the other hand, we think that it could very possibly be taught to comprehend the idea of the addition of a few units. We can quite understand, too, that a horse could learn to associate and recognize words like "oat," "saddle," "whip," and the name of a friendly

dog, or of its groom. But as horses are not in the habit of expressing many ideas by sounds, as monkeys undoubtedly do, it is not conceivable that they could understand the meaning of many sounds, much less one connoting an abstract idea like that of a particular day in the week.

The way in which a horse will find its way home, if it has ever travelled the journey before, even once, is the best evidence of its wonderful power of observation. Horses which have led a fairly free life sometimes equal the elephants in this respect, though many people forget that the long life of the elephant endows it with a range of experience which no other animal can equal. The gift is by no means absent even in horses kept in artificial surroundings. A writer in the Live-stock Journal, says:

"In 1894, I took a horse in a country quite new to me. The house was in rather a difficult labyrinth of lanes, and the horses lately imported. After we had been but a short time hunting, I fell into a good run, and left off at some distance from home. The horse I rode was one of my Irish mares, and, in and out of the stable, the most intelligent. She was going along quite merrily, till, in the dark, she tried to turn down a lane. I checked her, believing the road we were on to be the right one. She obeyed the rein, but instantly her cheery trot became a weary jog. I doubted, but held on. Not being very sure of the way myself, I was made more doubtful by the way the jog became a walk. Still obstinate, I thought the mare was really tired, and dismounted and walked. She began to drag on the rein. I may say that I often walked up hills after a long day's hunting, and always teach the horse to come along with a slack rein. Now, this mare had learned this lesson. When I dismounted she usually trotted along by my side like a dog, now she hung back. I remounted, and feeling certain that she thought I was wrong, and not feeling too sure myself, I let her have her own way. She wheeled around, broke into a sharp trot, and darted down the side lane she had tried before. We reached home, though I never felt certain about the road till I saw the gates of the yard."

It seems probable that the horse not only knew the way, but slackened its speed when its master went astray, because it did not know how much farther it might have to travel in its tired condition, while if it were going home by the nearest road it had plenty of reserve strength to trot. That a horse could be taught to understand and act in a very great variety of practical matters is almost as certain as its comprehension of abstract ideas is doubtful. There is very little doubt that if properly treated it is wonderfully capable of understanding what is going on, and of being made to comprehend what it is wanted to do. Add to this the fact that the properly domesticated horse is almost as naturally obedient as the cat is disobedient, and it is difficult to set a limit to its capacity for training. The only stumbling blocks are, firstly, its natural nervousness; and, secondly, the preference which its human employers have that it should be a machine, and not think. This is not the case everywhere. In Australia, for example, the "bush horse" is a very clever animal. During a drought, when grass was not to be had, some horses were noticed standing deep in water holes, and occasionally ducking their heads under water. It was then seen that they were bringing up in their mouth weeds which were growing at the bottom of the water.

Captain Hayes, whose recent death has left an irreparable loss in the ranks of those whose acquaintance with horses is as practical as it is sympathetic, but whose books still remain for consultation, believed most emphatically in the quality of equine memory. But he did not confuse memory with reasoning power when quoting the French writer, Le Bon, who held that "if horses were only able to read and write, they would win in every competitive examination, so retentive was their memory of what they had once seen." That equine recollection of place and incidents is quicker and more precise than that of civilized man seems probable from their feats of "homing." They are also extremely sensitive to the stimulus of "rewards," far more so than to the stimulus of punishment. The feats which horses will accomplish in return for sugar have been properly investigated. We have seen them jump gates, forward and backward, walk up planks, enter shops, and call regularly at certain houses in a terrace where this dainty was in prospect. Their frequent understanding of the objects of polo and of the dodges useful in the game is well known. The horse seems meant by nature to be a fellow-laborer with man, and shines most where it is aiding him in the chase, or in herding cattle, dragging trucks on a railway excavation, tipping earth over bank, or moving timber. The intelligence of the timber-movers' horses in the use of the rolling-chain, shifting logs or dragging them on to the timber "jim," almost equals that of the elephant in a teak-yard. Part of their work is due to discipline and obedience. But it is impossible to watch them at work without seeing that they understand all the details of the business.—[London Spectator.